**Partners For Highway Safety** 



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## www.trafficsafety.net

September 29, 2003

Mr. Ben Pingree Special Projects Coordinator Leon County Courthouse Tallahassee, Fl. 32301

Dear Mr. Pingree,

I am submitting this report as our "Annual Report" as required in the agreement between Partners For Highway Safety and the Leon County Board of County Commissioners.

May 1, 2003 the Board voted to provide funding to PHS in the amount of \$24,780.00 to be used by PHS to reduce the cost of traffic safety programs PHS provides to teen drivers in Leon County. The number of students registered and completing programs is from October 1, 2002 through September 30, 2003.

In the past twelve months PHS has provided traffic education and training programs for 1033 teens 15 to 18 years old.

948 were Leon County residence of which 857 completed the programs. The difference of 91 students is explained below.

490 Leon County students attended our "First Time Drivers" program. PHS was able to provide this program for 90 - 95% of all students calling to register. This program is primarily for 15 and 16 year olds. PHS plans to expand this program next year and working with Leon County Schools our goal is to reach 600 students in the coming year.

94 Leon County teens completed our "Novice Driver" program. This driver training program for 15 and 16 year old drivers has become extremely popular. PHS has 34 kids on the waiting list for this program and the wait is at least ten to twelve weeks. Parents are electing to enroll their son/daughter in this behind-the-wheel training program instead of driver's education offered by the school system. This program has gained popularity with parents of teens attending private school in Leon County since they offer no form of driver's education or drivers training. This basic program fills a major void in our community but the absence of a driving range limits the number of students we are able to accommodate. Because of the need for a closed area (driving range) PHS is unable to expand this program to meet the needs of this community.

223 Leon County teen drivers completed the Collision Avoidance Training program during the past twelve months. This advanced driver training program targeting 16 and 17

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year old drivers has 61 students on the waiting list and the wait to get into this program continues to grow. After several months of waiting approximately 26 students did not enroll when a date became available. PHS is working with Superintendent Munford to create a mailing to the parents of 16 year olds making them aware of this program. Our goal is to reach 600 plus teen drivers with this program but due to limited use of the driving facility we have not reached half of that number. Our major problem is the availability of a driving range. Presently PHS rents the driving range at Pat Thomas Law enforcement academy and we are no longer surprised to receive a call from them canceling our class. During the past quarter (July, August, September) PHS has had 9 scheduled classes. Two of the classes have been cancelled and one class was double booked. The morning of the class we arrived to find TPD training on the driving range. In effect we have had only 6 classes out of the past 13 week-ends. No classes are scheduled for the month of October and only two dates will be offered in November as the driving range is not available.

Since May 1, 2003 there has been 22 week-ends. Of the 22, PHS has booked the driving range 13 times. 4 of the 13 the range has been cancelled. PHS has had only 9 classes during the past 22 week-ends due to availability of the driving range. In order to meet the need and the demand from our community for this program and the

Novice Driver program, PHS must arrange for use of other driving facilities.

PHS will not use the total amount of funds allocated for our traffic safety programs this year. One reason is the lack of track time available causing a short fall of at least 90 to 100 students during this grant period.

I want to thank the Board of County Commissioners for supporting these valuable programs in our community. I hope to have the opportunity to continue and expand our working relationship next year.

Sincerely,

Paul Burris

President/Founder

CC: Commissioner Sauls

Commissioner Grippa

Commissioner Thaell

Commissioner Rackleff

**Commissioner Proctor** 

Commissioner Maloy

Commissioner Winchester